

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A polymer composite particle comprising a metal oxide coated with a silicone and/or fluorine compound, wherein the metal oxide has an average particle diameter of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, the polymer composite particle being obtained by polymerizing a mixture comprising a crosslinking agent and a vinyl monomer, wherein ~~the vinyl monomer contained is in an amount of~~ not less than 25% by weight of said vinyl monomer based on 100% by weight of the sum total of all the monomers and the crosslinking agents, ~~and wherein the vinyl monomer~~ has a solubility parameter of less than about 8.9.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A The polymer composite particle of claim 1 ~~comprising a metal oxide coated with a silicone and/or fluorine compound, the metal oxide having an average particle diameter of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  or less~~, wherein a cosmetic comprising said polymer composite particle in an amount corresponding to 5% by weight of the metal oxide and 1% by weight of 2-ethylhexyl 4-methoxycinnamate by weight of the cosmetic, ~~resulting results~~ in the cosmetic having an SPF of 7 or more.

Claim 3 (Original): The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the vinyl monomer having a solubility parameter less than about 8.9 comprises an alkyl(meth)acrylate having a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which has 8 or more carbon atoms and may optionally be fluorinated.

Claim 4 (Original): The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the vinyl monomer having a solubility parameter of less than about 8.9 comprises a

dimethyl polysiloxane compound having a radical polymerizable group at one terminal of a molecular chain.

Claim 5 (Original): The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the vinyl monomer having a solubility parameter less than about 8.9 comprises an alkyl(meth)acrylate having a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which has 8 or more carbon atoms and may be optionally fluorinated and a dimethyl polysiloxane compound having a radical polymerizable group at one terminal of a molecular chain.

Claim 6 (Original): The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the metal oxide is one or more types selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, titanium oxide, cerium oxide, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Original): The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the content of the metal oxide is from 25 to 90% by weight of the polymer composite particle.

Claim 8 (Original): The polymer composite particle according to claim 1, wherein the content of the crosslinking agent is from 0.1 to 75% by weight based on 100% by weight of the sum total of all the monomers and the crosslinking agents.

Claim 9 (Original): A method of producing the polymer composite particle as claimed in claim 1 or 2, the method comprising the steps of:

dispersing and mixing a metal oxide coated with a silicone and/or fluorine compound, a monomer component comprising a vinyl monomer having a solubility parameter less than about 8.9 and a crosslinking agent, and suspension-polymerizing the mixture.

Claim 10 (Original): A cosmetic comprising the polymer composite particle as claimed in claim 1 or 2.

Claim 11 (Original): Use of the polymer composite particle as claimed in claim 1 or 2 for cosmetics.

Claim 12 (Original): A cosmetic composition comprising the polymer composite particle as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising other cosmetic components, and a cosmetic carrier.

Claim 13 (Original): A cosmetic composition comprising the following components(A) and (B) and the cosmetic as claimed in claim 10:

(A) a microparticle metal oxide having an average primary particle diameter of from 0.001 to 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and (B) a flake zinc oxide having an average size of from 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  and an average thickness of from 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 14 (Original): The cosmetic composition according to claim 13, wherein the flake zinc oxide as component (B) is contained at a ratio by weight of from 0.05 to 0.4 to the metal oxide contained in said component (A) and said polymer composite particle.